

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Volume 35, Number 12

GREENBELT, MARYLAND

Thursday, February 10, 1972

AGAINST SEWAGE PLANT; GULLETT TELLS COUNTY

by Elaine Skolnik

A marathon 6½-hour hearing on Tuesday before the Prince Georges County Council, interrupted only by an hour for lunch, is the latest development in the Greenbriar sewage treatment plant go-around. The council, which was holding a hearing on CB-45, an amendment to the county's Ten-Year Water and Sewer Plan to authorize the installation and use of the temporary treatment plant for the Greenbriar and Glen Ora apartment complexes, stated that it will consider action next Tuesday after receiving additional information from the county health officer.

This request for information came about as the result of the Greenbelt city council's resolution of the night before, recommending to the county council that it receive as a condition precedent to its approving the amendment an assurance from the county health officer, Dr. Perry Stearns, that the effluent from the proposed plant would not represent a health hazard.

Gullett Statement

The council also received a written statement from county executive William W. Gullett which it wanted further elaboration on. Gullett told council that he did not see the urgency for permitting the use of a temporary plant for Greenbriar in light of the fact that a public sewer will be made available in a relatively short period of time. He said that the use of temporary plants as alternatives for public sewers should be for specific purposes in the public interest.

Gullett gave as examples of the public interest: (1) the solving of public health hazards in areas due to septic system failures and where public sewer service will not or cannot be made available due to limitations on available capacity, engineering or economics.

(2) to broaden the county's economic base by attracting quality industrial and commercial development which could not be served by public service due to present and future limitations.

(3) to permit the staging of quality development in areas of the county where public sewer is not contemplated or programmed within the foreseeable future.

Gullett stressed that the county's past and present support of the Greenbriar project does not mean that it should take place in advance of the availability of public sewerage. "We do not believe," he said, "it is good policy to encourage or accelerate a major new residential development in advance of the availability of public sewerage."

He flatly stated that he did not believe the use of a temporary treatment plant to support Greenbriar was in the public interest.

Uncertainty

Gullett added that he also had concerns over whether the proposed treatment plant will function as designed. "This uncertainty," he

said, "is further compounded when we are facing a major residential development."

Finally, Gullett said he had reservations concerning the proliferation of points of sewage discharge throughout the county which may cause new problems in the future.

Next week's News Review will contain a summary of the testimony heard by the county council.

Show to Aid Parkdale Band

Singing and dancing will highlight the performances of the Berwyn Heights Community Players at Parkdale Senior High on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 11 and 12, at 8 p.m.

"Yeast for Parkdale" will feature singing, dancing, and skits by the dance and drama group under the direction of Mrs. Jackie Levin. Other entertainment will be provided by the Parkdale Stage Band, conducted by Bruce Nale, and the Parkdale folk singers, led by Theodore Hannibal.

Proceeds from the shows will go to Parkdale's Symphonic Band to help the members go to Vienna, Austria. They have been invited to participate in the International Festival of Bands in Vienna.

The program will be held in the Multi-Purpose Room at Parkdale Senior High, 6001 Good Luck Road, Riverdale. Tickets will be available at the door or you may call Ruth Dee at 474-2973 (after 6:30 p.m.).

Scout Month Celebration

February is Boy Scout Month and Troop 746 will celebrate with a Court of Honor on Friday evening, February 11 at 8 p.m. at the Mowatt Memorial Methodist Church — its sponsoring institution. All parents and friends of Scouting are urged to attend as the Troop begins its 17th year.

Sunday, February 13, is Boy Scout Sunday and many of the Scouts from 746 will attend Mowatt Memorial, in uniform, to show their appreciation for all the church and the community has done for them.

The Troop also has a display in the window at Twin Pines. Be sure to stop by and see this exhibit.

WHAT GOES ON

Friday, Feb. 11, 8:30 p.m. - Duplicate Bridge, Co-op Hospital-ity Room

Fri. and Sat., Feb. 11 and 12, 8 p.m., "Yeast for Parkdale", Parkdale Senior High

Mon.-Fri., Feb. 14-17, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Registration for Recreation Center Classes

Mon., Feb. 14, 1972, 8 p.m. City Council Cont. Meeting.

Mon., Feb. 14, 8 p.m. PRAB Mtg., Recreation Center Conference Room

Wed., Feb. 16, 8:30 p.m. SOCC Mtg., Greenbelt Library

8 p.m., Greenbelt Extension Homemakers Club, 4614 Harvard Rd., College Park

Wed., Feb. 16, Co-op Nursery School Registration. Classroom behind Community Church.

Skating and Ice Condition

Ice skating anyone? Try Greenbelt Lake when conditions permit. The Recreation Department will attempt to provide supervision when conditions permit, on week days 4 p.m. until dark; Saturday, Sunday and holidays 9 a.m. until dark.

The Recreation Department's guide to ice conditions is:

Young or Black Ice

2½ inches uniform: safe if cautious, and no congregating; 4 inches will support the weight of skaters. "SKATE AT YOUR OWN RISK!"

Layered or White Ice

One foot of this kind of ice will support the weight of skaters. "SKATE AT YOUR OWN RISK!"

Old or Rotten Ice

Under the above conditions, "NO SKATING".

Extension Homemakers

The Greenbelt Extension Homemakers Club will be held on Wednesday, February 16 at 8 p.m. in the home of Mrs. Robert Schroeder, 4614 Harvard Road, College Park.

Members and guests will hear a talk on health foods by Mrs. Jean Koster. Mrs. Steunhauser will display the semi-precious stones that she brought back from South America.

On February 23 at 7:30 p.m. a work shop will be held at the Greenbelt Library conference room.

Recreation Review

KAVA

Saturday, February 12, 8-11 p.m. KAVA will feature the dynamic sounds of the "Devils Track." All Senior High teens are invited. Dress is casual and a minimum fee will be charged.

MEN'S GYM

This program is held each Monday night. Basketball courts are reserved for men 21 years and over. Take advantage of this opportunity from 7-10 p.m. and exercise those inactive muscles for better health and spirit.

TEEN GYM

This program is held every Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, first and third Saturdays, from 7-10 p.m. The gym is open to all teens. Tuesdays and Thursdays are not available thru March 16 due to Boys' and Girls' Club Basketball Program.

WOMEN'S GYM

This activity is held each Tuesday night 8:30-10 p.m. at St. Hugh's; Girls' Gym is from 7-8:30 p.m. Activities include volleyball, basketball, and trampoline. This program is free. Start shaping up for the bathing season now. See you Tuesday night!

Council Resolution Stresses Safeguards on Sewage Plant

by Al Skolnik

Disregarding petitions signed by more than 800 Greenbelters asking for outright opposition to a temporary package sewage treatment plant for the Greenbriar and Glen Ora apartment projects, the Greenbelt city council at its Monday night meeting took a midway position. By a 4 to 1 vote, council approved a 5-page resolution giving voice to community fears as to possible health and ecological hazards that might arise from the plant and recommending to State authorities certain safeguards that should be considered or required for incorporation into the plant if a permit is issued for its installation.

Voting in favor of the resolution was its maker, Charles Schwan, and other council members Richard Pilski, Elizabeth Maffay, and Gil Weidenfeld. Opposed to the resolution was council woman Rhea Cohen, who said that she construed the resolution as being in favor of the sewage plant.

Schwan disagreed with this interpretation, arguing that the motion neither approved nor disapproved the sewage plant. In fact, he said, the council lacked the technical competence to make a decision as to the health aspects of the plant, which is the responsibility of the State Department of Public Health and Mental Hygiene.

However, despite this disclaimer of technical competence, Schwan's colleagues Mrs. Maffay and Weidenfeld asserted that all the evidence weighed heavily toward the conclusion, that there were no health or ecological risks involved in the sewage plant, which will be incorporating advanced methods of tertiary treatment of sewage effluent.

Audience Sentiment

Audience sentiment obviously disagreed with this finding. Only one person — Joe Hanyok — expressed approval of the plant. Majority sentiment among the 60 persons present appeared to be that some risks were inevitably involved and that the only way to eliminate the risks is not to build the plant. "Why the great necessity for Greenbelt to have this plant?" asked Bertram Donn. Another person asked, "Is there any urgency about Greenbelt having more apartments?"

Not only was audience sentiment critical of the plant, but letters were also read into the record from Greenbelt Homes, Inc., Save Our Community Committee (SOCC), and individuals opposing the plant. Petitions circulated by SOCC and signed by 861 persons (including 41 non-Greenbelters) were presented to council.

Weidenfeld protested the language of the petitions, which he said misrepresented the situation by implying that raw sewage would be discharged into a local Greenbelt stream. "If I had been approached with this petition, and not knowing the true situation, I would have panicked and signed it also," he declared.

Safeguards

Schwan said that he had studied very carefully all the objections that had been raised against the plant from the health and ecological viewpoint and that his resolution was designed to incorporate all the conditions that had been suggested to safeguard the plant.

The resolution adopted by council contained over a dozen conditions that it recommended to the State Health Department as a minimum requirement for issuance of permit. Most of these were of a technical nature dealing with the mechanical processes involved in a tertiary treatment plant, including the use of dual facilities to guard against breakdown.

In addition, the resolution listed a number of other conditions that the State Health Department was asked to consider imposing on the developer. A major one was a suggestion that the discharge be piped to a point on the stream where it is no longer intermittent (City manager James Giese thought that such a point would be near the Agricultural Farm). This proposal was in response to citizen concern over the discharge of effluent into an intermittent stream that flows through a generally forested area to which residents near-

by have ready access.

Thus suggestion prompted one citizen — Helen Geller — to ask the developer Alan Kay point blank whether he would voluntarily agree to such piping so as to ease citizen concern. Kay responded that he would abide by any standards laid down by the State Health Department.

Want Assurances

The resolution also recommended to the Prince Georges County Council that in view of possible health and ecological hazards it should require an assurance from the county health officer that the effluent would not represent such a risk. The city council specified that this should be one of the conditions incorporated in the proposed county amendment (CB45) to the County's Ten-Year Water and Sewer Plan permitting use and installation of a temporary treatment plant for the Greenbriar project.

This recommendation was denounced by Thomas White, who said that the "county health officer can assure me nothing. The person holding the office can leave or be removed, as was done a few years ago when he did not look after sewage in the county." Donn also asked what good are such assurances if there is a breakdown.

Beverly Stone made the argument that once the plant is built and there is a total failure, the city will be powerless to close it down. Even the courts might be powerless to act, she said, if only noxious or foul odors are involved.

Steve Polaschik, a GHI board member, asked who will compensate for damages and wondered whether the developer would be willing to post a bond. Kay implied that he would agree to some liability language in the tenant lease. However, Dr. John Thomas Cookson, a waste treatment expert consulting the developer on the design of the plant, said that he simply could not foresee any mechanical failure that could not be readily repaired within 24 hours under the built-in and automatic safe-

See CITY COUNCIL, p. 8, c. 1

AGENDA

CONTINUATION MEETING OF FEB. 7 CITY COUNCIL

Monday, FEB 14, 1972
8:00 P.M.

- III OLD BUSINESS (cont'd)
- 14 Indoor Swimming Pool
 - 15 Governor's Gun Legislation
 - 16 Amend Item 23 of Standing Rules
 - 17 Review of Jurisdiction of Advisory Boards
 - 18 Provide for Taking of Talent Census
 - 19 County Legislation
 - 20 Legislation on Redistricting

IV NEW BUSINESS

- 21 Resolution to Transfer Funds - \$100
- 22 Review of Housing for the Elderly
- 23 Year 2000 Plan Re-examination
- 24 Fair Share Housing Formula
- 25 Meetings

V MISCELLANEOUS

- 26 Bid Award - Rotary Mower

CITY OF GREENBELT, MARYLAND PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1972
RECREATION CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM
8:00 p.m.
AGENDA

1. Approval of January 11, 1972 Minutes
2. Old Business
 - a. Proposed Ordinance Group Picnics - Parks and Facilities Committee
 - b. Staff Plan Lake Park Public Hearing - Parks and Facilities Committee
 - c. Stream Valley Park - N. Neupert
 - d. Ordinance #723
 - e. F. D. R. High School - Plan presentation to Council by School Board, January 25, 1972.

GREENBELT NEWS REVIEW

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Volume 19, Number 20

Thursday, February 10, 1972

Muddy Fountain?

To the Editor:

The time and effort that PRAB has spent on findings for the re-development and improvement of the Lake Park and Braden Field is commendable, and surely many of its recommendations are within reason. But a fountain spraying in the lake? I wonder if PRAB ever viewed the lake after a rain storm when it remains muddy for days on end?

Since water flow has been reduced over the past ten years, what the lake needs is a way of moving the water to keep it from becoming a stagnant pool of the future. Possibly our money could be better spent in digging an artesian well (or two) into the underground springs, which would help move the scum and debris which prevails on those hot summer days.

With so many citizens concerned with ecology, why not begin in the natural setting we have and help preserve the fish and wildlife that abounds? Wouldn't that be much more pleasant than looking at a muddy water fountain?

Joan Freeman

Green Eyes in Greenbelt

To the Editor:

Some residents of the city of Greenbelt are being duped. The deception has been perpetrated by a group of self-proclaimed protectors of the citizenry who became more and more suspicious by their actions.

Letters to the editor last week indicated that Francis W. White was not sensitive to the needs of the citizens of Greenbelt and the county. I think it's disgusting that presumably mature adults have engaged in this type of activity only for crass personal political gain.

I know that Mrs. Cohen feels she is more qualified than any other elected official, but she should realize that the citizens of our county and City want their leaders to be credible and to be mature and objective thinkers. Her letter and that of her cohorts demonstrate in clearest terms how the career of a dedicated public servant can be misrepresented by people who wish only to advance their own political careers through innuendos and untruths.

History cannot be changed. The career of Francis W. White can be scrutinized by anyone who wishes to do so. Those who scrutinize the motives of councilman White's critics might find that political jealousy is causing some "Green Eyes in Greenbelt".

Ben Goldfaden

Former City Councilman

Spare the Lake

To the Editor:

Please do not let anyone reduce Greenbelt Lake Park to an organized, managed, structured, supervised, paced, redeveloped and improved "recreation facility." Please leave that small precious area alone. Let bicyclists ride slowly enough to be aware of the sounds and smells, boys fish without a platform, strollers enjoy fields and unpaved paths, and woods-hungry people of all ages potter about safe from radishes in paper mulch and sounds of tinkling fountain. (A fountain?!)

The Lake area is just fine as it is. But if there is any spare "re-development and improvement" lying around we could use it in the heart of the Center. New paving there would work wonders. And there is the place for the fountain. Those lovely magnolia trees deserve a better showing.

Meri Christian
Jean Keen**TALK ON MISHKAN TORAH**

On Friday, Feb. 11, at the Mishkan Torah, Mrs. Yona Goldberg will speak about the Solomon Schechter Day School located in Chevy Chase. Services will start at 8:30 p.m.

Greenbelt Beauty Salon

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Outstanding Job

To the Editor:

I have "had it with Rhea Cohen". It's bad enough that she has been appointed by Gullett to a job that she is not qualified to fulfill and (could pay) as much as \$16,000.00 (if that's not being a political hack I don't know what is), but now she is attacking a man whom I think has gotten a raw deal from both Cohen and some county papers.

Francis W. White has done an outstanding job for Greenbelt over the past years. Sure, there are a few things I disagree with like those roads that were mentioned in your edition. Anyone who lives in the area knows how bad the light at Greenbelt Road and Kenilworth Avenue is. Well, unlike other people who who go off half-cocked, I investigated the construction program for those roads. They were planned and approved before White ever ran for any office.

I just hope the citizens of our county will recognize the conspiracy of one that exploits and exists in Greenbelt. I think we should pull together and help our officials make Prince Georges a better place to live.

Joburns Baker

Sgt. U. S. Army, Retired

Ash Wednesday Service

Local Protestant churches belonging to the United Christian Ministries will hold a communion service at 8 p.m. February 16, to mark the beginning of the Lenten season. The service will be at the Berwyn Presbyterian Church on Greenbelt Road. The ministers of 11 churches, representing all the UCM denominations, will participate.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING**Greenbelt Save Our Community Committee**

Wednesday, Feb. 16, 1972

8:30 P.M.

Greenbelt Library

Guest Speaker -

Sen. Wm. Goodman

Public invited

**State Farm Insurance****Ron Borgwardt****474-8400**

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SQUARE DANCE

Feb. 26, 1972

8:00 p.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Caller - Charles Govsky

Refreshments

\$7.00 per couple For further
Mishkan Torah Information &
Ridge & Westway tickets call
Roads 277-5673, 474-8795

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

6905 Greenbelt Rd.

Worship Services

8:30 and 11:15 A.M.

Sunday School 9:50 A.M.

Edward H. Birner, Pastor

Phone 345-5111



9:45 A.M. Sunday School 6:00 P.M. Training Union
11:00 A.M. Morning Worship 7:00 P.M. Evening Worship
7:30 P.M. Wednesday Midweek Service

GREENBELT BAPTIST CHURCH

Crescent & Greenhill Rds. S. Jasper Morris, Jr., Pastor 474-4040

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

(Mowatt Memorial) 40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, Md. Telephone 474-9410

Rev. Clifton Cunningham, Pastor - Tel. 474-3381

Worship Service 11:00 A.M.

(Nursery through Kindergarten at 11:00)

Church School (Kindergarten through adults) 9:30 A.M.

Sunday, February 13, 1972

Sermons: "What Do You Mean, Honor Your Father and Mother?"
"Soul Pollution."**Stern's SHOE REPAIR**

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Ages 3 to 5 - Professional Teaching Staff

ANNOUNCEMENT**REGISTRATION FOR NURSERY SCHOOL**

Registration for the 1972-73 school year will be held on Tuesday, February 15, at 8:15 p.m. at the school (in Fellowship Hall behind the Community Church, Crescent and Hillside Rds., Greenbelt). The Director and parents of the School will be present to meet interested parents and to answer questions and to help fill out the registration forms and to show parents the school classrooms.

Two morning classes and one afternoon class will be held; total enrollment is limited to 48. Applicants will be notified of acceptance. An application fee of \$5.00 (no refund) must accompany application form. The present tuition (1971-1972) is \$31.00 per month; the tuition for 1972-73 will be determined at the first membership meeting in Sept. The school is non-profit.

NOTICE TO ALUMNI PARENTS who may be planning to enroll a child for next year: Despite rapid population growth in the area, we will try to continue to give first consideration to old members. Please plan to register now. Alumni who are still undecided but want places held for their children are urged to notify the membership committee.

FOR TELEPHONE INFORMATION CALL:

Ann Miles 345-7290

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**CITY OF GREENBELT, MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION**

Registration will be held for the following classes at the Recreation Center, February 14 thru 17, from 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Classes begin during the week of February 21. Call 474-6878 for additional information.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Clay Modeling (6 yrs. & over) YC Sat. 9-10:30 a.m. \$5/6 1 1/2 hr. classes

Fun Hour (Elementary Age) RRC Mon-Fri. 3:30-5:30 p.m. FREE

Woodshop (7 yrs. & over) YC Sat. 9-10:30 a.m. \$5/6 1 1/2 hr. classes

TEEN AND ADULT

Ceramics YC Tue. 10-12 noon or \$12/5 2-hr. classes, \$14

Thu. 8-10 p.m. for Tue am babysitting. Clay

15c/lb. plus firing fee

Oil Painting YC Tue. 8-10 p.m. \$12/5 2-hr. classes

Slimnastics YC Tue. & Thu. 2-3 p.m. \$6/5 weeks, \$8

with babysitting

WORKSHOP

Macrame' YC Wed. Feb. 23rd \$5 plus \$3 materials fee,

9-12 noon or a.m. babysitting \$1.50

7:30-10:30 p.m.

More Letters on Greenbriar Sewage Plant

Neutralized Council

There will probably be written on the first page of this issue such headlines as "Council attaches strict conditions to approval of sewage plant in Greenbelt" or "Council reluctantly gives equivocal nod to sewage plant in Greenbelt." Well, however it is written up, read the Schwan resolution well, citizens, because it will earn its place alongside such monumental boobies as the Christmas Eve letter and the Charlestowne covenants.

The four councilmen voting for the Schwan resolution have wittingly or unwittingly given the developer of Greenbriar what he needed—a neutralized Greenbelt city council.

Councilmen Schwan, Pilski, Weidenfeld and Maffay really outdid themselves on this one. In one fell swoop they ignored the Greenbelt city master plan, the MNCPPC Master Plan for College Park and the 10-year sewer and water plan for Prince George's County.

Remember their campaign literature about defending the planned city of Greenbelt and guarding the environment? Well, you can recycle that literature—it's not worth the paper it's written on.

While ignoring the excellent editorial of the *News Review* opposing the plant, also the stated opposition of GHI on behalf of its 1600 member families, and the expressed opposition of 861 citizens in a petition circulated by SOCC, the four stepped all over each other being nice to the paid "experts" of Mr. Kay.

Mr. Pilski questioned whether the petitions were notarized—what unmitigated gall from a man who has not even seen the plans for the sewage plant he was giving his "equivocal" approval.

Mr. Schwan almost lost his temper again—which shows he still retains the arrogance he displayed while President of GHI.

Mr. Weidenfeld supplied his usual inane remark, "Why! If someone came to my door with this petition I would sign it too. It doesn't prove anything." He was reminded that some of the signers were basement apartment dwellers who are already living in leaky and sewage-threatened apartments.

Mrs. Maffay—I feel sorry for her, it was evident she did not have a grasp of the issue—it was also clear that under the influence of Schwan et al she has lost some of the courage and independence she had shown during her first term on council.

The net result of Monday night, Greenbelters, is that somewhat like the school fight the citizens will have to go it alone to insure that no temporary sewage plant will be located in Greenbelt. The obfuscating city council will have to be left behind. Next stop, county council. Help us! !!

Thomas X White

Pro-White

I don't usually write letters to papers, but after the last several weeks editions I felt I must write and tell you what I think.

Mrs. Rhea Cohen thinks she speaks for the Citizens of Greenbelt, but she doesn't—not for all of us. Many of the people I know feel she is playing games as a city councilwoman. People voted for her because they thought she was concerned for the economic and ecological health of our county. I guess they were wrong and in the next election they will show their concern.

The Greenbriar project is an example of what I mean. Every time she asks a question she gets an expert answer. I'll bet she is disappointed when she does, too, and finds her provocations without foundation.

As far as Francis White is concerned, I'm 100% behind him. I have voted for him every time he has run for office and have never regretted it. Sure, Greenbelt has changed over the years, but so has

Betrayal of Public Trust

The public has been treated to a display of testimony on both sides of the Greenbriar issue, but have heard little of the behind-the-scenes activities. Somehow or other, decisions of importance are made and the average citizen can only hope that the elected officials and those appointed to the various agencies charged with his welfare will all work for the public good. How is it then that massive citizen campaigns have to be mounted before these guardians of our welfare with deign to listen? And then with deaf ears. Why are recognized, respected citizens harassed, and challenged at every turn?

Why are our officials so much more responsive to the wealthy developer's onslaught of attorneys, engineers, and professors than they are to the concern of citizens, ecologists, environmentalists, virologists...?

Councilwoman Cohen submitted a ten-page research report, plus many supporting papers citing the astonishing number of legislative, zoning, and legal irregularities in the developer's position, in addition to calling into question the safety of a sewage plant to the health of the people and the ecology of the city and of those downstream.

Is it fair to ask the other members of council why they consistently avoided information all these weeks? Only after Mrs. Cohen's diligence forced them to bestir themselves did they do so, and a sorrier spectacle would be hard to imagine: the rushing through of a last minute resolution bypassing their responsibility to the people!

In weeks past Mrs. Cohen's activities with the PG Civic Federation were misrepresented by other members of council, in an unsuccessful attempt to discredit her. To what purpose, or for whose benefit do they malign her?

Mayor Pilski defended himself against someone's implication that he was being pressured by the developer; he did annoyingly admit that there was pressure from people who opposed the sewage plant, oppose it overwhelmingly. It is good to know that the mayor will not be pressured by the people that elected him! It is good to know that Mr. Schwan takes credit for a toothless resolution—he, might as well have laid the cornerstone to the permanent structure they call "temporary."

Mr. Kay would rather deal only with governmental agencies and politicians because he and his entourage know their way around all the agencies and their officialdom. He knows that they are all too susceptible to the kind of influence that he and the Francis Whites of this county know how to wield.

Our newspapers, both city and county, often know more than they print. Sometimes their omissions are due to time, space and strains of the business. But can it sometimes be because some number among their friends key political figures, or perhaps are subject to the economic sanctions wealthy developers can impose?

The Greenbriar Affair stinks—even before the taps are turned on!

Ely Davidson

Pre-School Story Program

There are still openings for the pre-school story programs for three and four-year olds at the Greenbelt Library.

Th programs for three-year olds will be held at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and for four-year olds on Wednesday evenings at 7 beginning February 15.

To reserve a place for your child, call the library at 345-5300.

our county. People grow, cities grow and counties grow. I'm glad we have a man like Francis White on the county council to promote orderly development.

Velma J. Chapman

Excessive Zeal

At Monday night's Greenbelt City Council meeting I spoke impromptu from the floor, urging that Mr. Schwan's resolution concerning the Greenbriar Sewage Treatment Plant be defeated, because it would transfer responsibility for the city's welfare to others along the chain of the decision making process. My concern, and the concern of others, is that if our own Council is not mindful of its trust how can we expect others to be so? Mayor Pilski seemed unconcerned that other agencies may sacrifice our legitimate interests for political reasons. That developers and moneyed interests have ways of exerting pressure to secure what they need is not a figment of my imagination, Mr. Pilski's objections notwithstanding. It is standard practice in Prince George's County and, as others mentioned, Greenbelt has many visible monuments to the failings of previous councils. I make no accusations, but I can and will speak for the way council's actions appear to the citizens.

Consider then the appearance. Mr. Schwan introduced a resolution so long and involved that five pages are required. These were distributed in prepared copies by members of the city staff, with the obvious prior knowledge and concurrence of the mayor. Four members of council were apparently prepared and familiar with the resolution; Mrs. Cohen had half an hour head start on the audience (an audience already annoyed by Council's failure to take a stand on preserving recreation and open space). The resolution, which was properly worded with all the needed legalese suggested the collaboration of attorneys... One can't help wondering, whether City Solicitor Nanna or any of the developers advisors were party to the writing. We are still permitted to wonder, I hope.

For a change, someone besides Mrs. Cohen was well supplied with technical documents and texts. Now any semblance of intelligence and preparation would be and is commendable... I welcome its appearance. But this sudden rush of documents read by Mr. Weidenfeld is remarkable, in view of the fact that they are all cited in the developer's behalf. The sheer volume of it was impressive... for one week's work, for one Councilman. Perhaps he too had help in library legwork.

Now I know that the appearances of which I speak can be misleading. So, to be fair, let me suppose Mr. Schwan wrote the resolution with no help, or with unbiased help; and that Mr. Weidenfeld did all the library work himself, or with unbiased help. In both cases it seemed to be excessive zeal in behalf of private interests, and a total disregard of the wishes of the citizens.

As a voter, I wonder if anyone minds if I and other citizens, ask WHY?

Leonard Cohen

CITY NOTES

Only 16 tons of paper were collected in the February paper drive, as opposed to around 30 tons in previous months. Even if the four tons picked two weeks earlier is added to this amount, it still falls far short of earlier collections. City officials are unable to explain the sharp drop in citizen participation.

The Parks crew repaired playground equipment throughout the city. They also cleaned roadside rights-of-way and operated the chipper machine.

The mechanic, assisted by two other crew members who have training as mechanics, completed the refurbishing of one of the old trucks which belong to the city.

A crew went out for the second time this season on February 1, to salt the streets.

SAVE
this paper for
RECYCLING

Reality Involved

It is interesting that those who talked loudest of "pressure" at the city council meeting on Monday, even to the extent of accusing the four-member majority of responding to "pressure" from the developer, were apparently unaware that they themselves were a great pressure group.

The majority had resolved to hear all arguments both for and against the plant before reaching a decision. They studied many documents and heard testimony from both public and private authorities on public health, ecology, and sewage disposal technology. They consulted expert opinion, listened, and kept their minds open. They came to a conclusion that they must have known in advance would result in vilification upon them personally that would be probably unequaled in any previous Greenbelt controversy.

I suspect this letter will be one of many, and that some of the other letter writers will charge betrayal of Greenbelt, of knuckling under to a developer, and engage even in character assassination. Yet I would rather have a council that listens to evidence and has the courage to come to an unpopular conclusion than any other kind of council—and I trust that I myself would have the integrity to act as they have done were I in such a situation as they have been, with the popular choice so easy to take.

In this case reality was involved. The land is zoned for apartments. If he fails to get his proposed luxury development started in time to take advantage of the new high school, Mr. Kay is unlikely to build us a park instead. He may sell to another developer with far less imagination and sense of community esthetics. Certainly the land will not be rezoned to either park or single family, because that would lower its value and deprive its owner of his property without due process of law.

Further, Mr. Kay has not at any time proposed running raw sewage anywhere. He says he will build a temporary treatment plant that will discharge a liquid no more polluted or dangerous than Beaver Dam Creek is now, in fact, less so. Certainly council had an obligation to attempt to see whether these claims were reasonable in the light of modern technology. Further, when faced with what appears to be proof beyond a reasonable doubt, they cannot ignore that evidence.

The resolution that they passed certainly did make many recommendations to the State boards that will be regulatory agencies if the sewage treatment plant is built. The council majority did not ignore the fears of any Greenbelt citizens regarding safety of either humans or environment. There is a point beyond which failing to listen to evidence or to consider it as valid because one does not like what that evidence supports becomes harassment.

A petition with 800 signatures objecting to raw sewage flowing in Greenbelt was rejected because there has at no time been a proposal that raw sewage be in any of our streams. Signing a misleading petition did not represent disapproval of an efficient sewage treatment plant.

I will not criticize the majority of the council for trying to act on the merits of the case after hearing evidence, and for keeping their minds open. Despite the hostile audience Monday night, having weighed evidence, they voted as their individual consciences dictated, not to win approval of a vocal part of the community.

The council majority voted with honesty and integrity. Possibly their hardest decision was to not take the easy way out and simply condemn the project despite evidence, and antagonize nobody except the developer. This course indeed would have gained for them great praise from some and avoided the verbal wrath to come. They

Deplores Name Calling

Although I am quite frankly less than happy with the action taken Monday night by city council regarding the sewage treatment plant for Greenbriar (I found Dr. Bertram Donn's presentation particularly effective), I am nonetheless totally convinced that each member of city council voted solely on the basis of conscience and conviction, and that their decisions were arrived at after much study and soul searching and awareness of possible political costs. I am convinced that all five members of city council are persons of honor and integrity, and therefore find it deeply disturbing to read letters to the editor accusing some of them of being "developer oriented."

A few hundred years ago, if you didn't like someone or what he was doing, all you had to do was call him a witch; in the fifties, all you had to call him was a "Commie," or a "fellow-traveler;" now the catch phrase seems to be "developer oriented." I wonder what will come next—"sewage-lover?"

I find it particularly disturbing that we cannot honestly disagree with one another without being suspected of the darkest motives. This kind of paranoia can only lead to a breakdown of the normal give and take of the political process.

I think all want what's best for Greenbelt, but wouldn't it be miraculous if we all agreed, all the time, on what actually is best for Greenbelt? Perhaps in some Utopian afterworld—but we are still living here on earth now, in the turbulent year, 1972.

So argue on Greenbelt—fight for your convictions, sign petitions, pass resolutions at your meetings, picket, write letters and articles—but don't call names. "Sticks and stones may break my bones but names will never hurt me" just isn't true. It hurts everybody.

Helen Geller

Credibility Lost

Rhea Cohen's continued letter writing is incredible. All this is accented because she has lost her credibility. As an environmental activist, she focuses some needed attention on environmental matters. However, in practice, you should know that she recommended that a beautiful standing grove of trees be bulldozed as a site for a Greenbelt recreation building rather than support its location on the edge of a golf course, which had already been cleared. She speaks one way and acts another.

May I suggest she check her own house before she takes out after a dedicated public official like Francis W. White, whose virtue it was to run on a ticket that she did not support. Cheap shots are a dime a dozen. If she wants to run for office, let her do so on her own money, not on the County's money as a \$60 per day consultant (perhaps a political payoff itself?).

Frederick J. Isaacs

Circumvention

Notwithstanding the statement in the Greenbriar sewage treatment resolution passed by city council on February 7, that "nothing in the resolution is to be construed as an endorsement of a circumvention of the moratorium on public sewer connection," the fact is that council took a clear position on the issue. It voted yes, 4 to 1, to circumvent the moratorium. The expression of popular sentiment as contained in the petition signed by more than 800 signatories was cavalierly ignored. The solitary proponent of the people's interest was Mrs. Rhea Cohen.

S. Moryadas

knew this, but chose to vote their convictions. At times courage leads on a difficult road.

Katherine Keene

Council Moves Ahead On Sidewalk Rights-of-Way

by Bob McGee

The Greenbelt city council set a new recent record for endurance, running its regular Monday, February 7 meeting until 1:20 a.m. Tuesday morning. Shortly after midnight, despite a long, hard session on the Greenbriar—Glen Ora sewage treatment issue, council waded right into another controversial area—the Lakeside-Northway "sidewalk issue".

The cutting edge of the discussion has been dulled in recent months, however, as the proposal was simply to clear a right of way on the down side of both streets. Four residents on Lakeside reluctantly agreed to the idea of clearing a portion of the right-of-way, although two — Rita Sue Miller and Joseph Hanyok — felt that equal treatment should be applied to all residents of these streets by clearing both sides of the street.

All expressed fears that this was just the first step to developing sidewalks, which they adamantly opposed. Mrs. Miller felt that it was even more important, from a safety standpoint, that clearance be made on the up side of Lakeside because parking is limited to that side of the street and people must alight from their cars there.

Mrs. Robert Steinman expressed concern about losing any trees and took council to task for not exploring measures for traffic control first. George Beauchamp thought that the cleared walkway would become mud in inclement weather and suggested that council face the issue of sidewalks immediately.

Council eventually unanimously passed a motion that a "reasonable" clearance be made of the city right-of-way on the down side of Lakeside and Northway by August, and that if property owners hadn't removed or transplanted obstacles by that time, the city would do so. The motion was left vague deliberately to give the city manager flexibility, but implied in the action was that no sizeable trees would

be removed, — pathways would go around them — that approximately a four foot clearance would be made wherever possible, and that the work would be done at city expense.

Bike riders in Greenbelt were given a break as council unanimously passed an ordinance amending the city code to eliminate the 25c license fee. Council also agreed to forward recommendations of the Springhill Lake Civic Association to the State Roads Commission to assure that any measures taken in relation to the traffic experiment at Edmonston and Greenbelt Roads be of a temporary nature so that, in the event the experiment is unsuccessful, citizens of the development will not be further limited in access to that entrance.

Lake Park Concession Stand

Council held over action to the next regular meeting on Feb. 28, on a request by Mr. and Mrs. Duane R. Bowman for a three year lease to operate the lake park concession stand. Their negotiations with the present owners for a transfer would be dependent on the lease. Although council had no particular objections, it felt that an opportunity should be given first for residents of Greenbelt to be informed in the event anyone might be interested in the venture.

Council was pleased with a letter from Janet James who commended the city on the promptness with which it responded to her report of a bad street condition. She said that Greenbelt was one city,

at least, where "if you wanted to get something done, you didn't have to fight city hall — you just called it." Another letter, from Beverly Stone, stated that the city of Greenbelt has never taken affirmative action to recruit qualified women for available positions in city departments except for secretarial work and that any "qualified" woman should be invited to apply for the vacant position of associate city manager.



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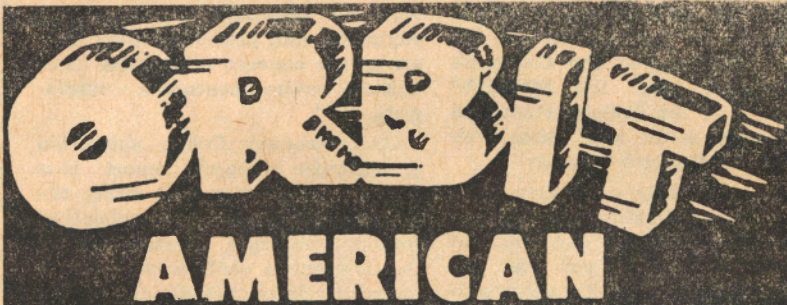
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Mr. and Mrs. S. D. Meade, 19-H Hillside, visited the Alabama Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, where they not only viewed space-ships used by astronauts but also walked on a simulated moon crater and snacked on space food.

Thomas Joseph McAndrew, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Joseph McAndrew, Sr., 2-M Eastway, is one of 1,700 high school students who will spend a full week studying American government through personal involvement and contact with leading agencies and top level officials. This year the Presidential Classroom for Young Americans Program will have representatives from all 50 states, and from American schools located in other countries. Thomas will attend February 12 through February 19 and will be housed in Washington's Shoreham Hotel.

At a luncheon at the Prince Georges Country Club, in December Thomas was named Student of the Month and received an award from the Rotary Club.

Springhill Lake's first baby of the year was Scott Alan Mowry. Scott arrived on January 8 and joined a sister, Kimberly Sue. His proud parents are Harry and DeLores Mowry of Cherrywood Court.

Cub Scout Pack 1253 is celebrating an anniversary this month. In February 1964 the pack was chartered with 25 boys. Today there are 80 boys in seven dens and Webelos.

Gary C. Myers, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Gary C. Myers, Sr., 11-F Ridge Rd. was among the 280 sophomores named to the Dean's List at Bucknell University for the first semester.

Mr. and Mrs. Denison E. Smith, of Greenbelt, recently attended the Annual Leaders Conference of Western Reserve Life Assurance Company held at Dorado Beach, Puerto Rico. Smith is a representative of Western Reserve Life, a subsidiary of Pioneer Western Corporation, a national financial services organization. The Smiths and their daughter reside at 9134 Edmonston Court.

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CITY COUNCIL from page 1

guards to be incorporated in the plant.

Arguments

Throughout the 3-hour discussion, the audience received a preview of many of the arguments that were made the following day before the county council (see accompanying article). Cited in favor of the tertiary plant was the Lake Tahoe experience, where the effluent is discharged into a lake that is used for recreation purposes. Studies put out by the Environmental Protection Agency have been favorably disposed, pointing out that no virus cultures have been found in Lake Tahoe.

Upon questioning, Cookson admitted that some problems developed in the early days of the Lake Tahoe plant, but that these have been solved. Members from the audience commented that the Lake Tahoe plant is a permanent-type plant and has long-term sewage bins.

David Lange, another GHI board member, expressed concern that the approval of the temporary sewage plant would be by-passing orderly planning procedures and, in effect, circumventing the State-imposed moratorium. Richard Schifter, representing the developer, denied that the treatment plant was a circumvention of the moratorium since the effluent would not be going into the permanent WSSC system — the overloading of which prompted the moratorium in the first place.

However, several members of the audience, led by James Harris, hit hard at the idea that approval of the temporary treatment plant as a means of getting sewage during the moratorium was discriminatory against small builders, since only large outfits like Kay can afford to pay for the cost of a tertiary treatment plant.

Schwan pointed out, in response to comments that approval of the plant might serve as a precedent, that the city resolution contains a clause stating that the resolution should not be construed as endorsing the circumvention of the moratorium.

Harris also expressed concern, along with other members of the audience, that the council was subordinating community goals to the developer's goals. Thomas White pleaded with council to give some weight to the views of the people as represented by the petitions.

Questions were raised as to how long "temporary" would be. Schifter said that his WSSC source of information has advised him that the first phase expansion of the Western Branch permanent system would be completed by December 1973. Mrs. Cohen said that her informants have told her that it will be three years. Schifter said that the developer will be only too glad to hook up with the permanent system so that he will no longer have to pay the operational costs of the temporary plant.

In response to comments from the audience that it is hard to make judgments about the plant without engineering and site development plans, the council at the end of the discussion passed a motion requesting the State Health Department to make available to the Greenbelt council all the plans it receives from the developer.

Sparks and Fireworks

Early in the meeting some sparring took place among council members with respect to a motion by Mrs. Cohen that council oppose any exception to the open-space requirements, particularly as relating to Greenbriar. Mrs. Cohen maintained that the placement of a treatment plant on the Greenbriar tract would violate the 70 percent requirement of open space for R-30 apartments. According to Giese, the county planning board says that there will be no problem since the treatment plant will be discontinued before the tract is fully developed for the 1,193 units. Council tabled the motion, apparently on the grounds that it did not have before it a specific request from the developer for an open-space variance or exception.

Mrs. Cohen also registered a protest that she never had an opportunity to see a copy of the resolution adopted by council until a half hour before the council meeting.

City Exploring Ways To Acquire Parkland

At a meeting on Thursday, February 3 with Congressman Larry Hogan, Mayor Richard Pilski, council members Betty Maffay and Gil Weidenfeld, and city manager James K. Giese explored possibilities of acquiring a 13-acre tract of land in the Agricultural Research Center adjacent to Parcel 1 and the Baltimore-Washington Parkway.

Also present at the meeting were representatives of three federal agencies — the General Services Administration; the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation (BOR) of the Department of the Interior; and Health, Education and Welfare. Representatives of the Melwood School, an institution for mentally retarded children, also attended the meeting. The Melwood School, presently located near Upper Marlboro, is competing with Greenbelt for acquisition of the tract of land.

Although Greenbelt's previous application to BOR has been rejected, the city "will positively pursue its acquisition," Giese said. BOR's decision stemmed from the city's intent to use the site for a landfill operation in conjunction with plans to develop it for parkland. (BOR's powers are confined to disposing of surplus federal land for park use. HEW, however, has a program which permits disposal of surplus land for landfill purposes.) The tract already contains some landfill, carried out at the time the NASA interchange on the Parkway was constructed. At that time some city garbage was removed from the municipal landfill and transported to the site further north.

According to Giese, the city has several alternative avenues of approach toward acquiring the land. One would be to apply for the land through the HEW program. Another would be to buy the land outright, without making use of any federal program. A third would be to amend the BOR application. At present the city is appealing the BOR decision. Which step will be followed, should the BOR appeal be denied, will be decided following further advice from the federal officials involved.

The other major problem in acquisition of the tract—the competing interest of the Melwood School — may be resolved, Giese said, through action by GSA to make available as surplus property another suitable parcel elsewhere.

At the same time, other council members expressed their indignation at inferences made by Leonard Cohen that the council was acting under political pressure from the developer. Mayor Pilski said that if there were going to be any charges like that, he wanted them to be specific and out in the open and Cohen backed down.

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GHI Raises Loan Amounts On Kitchen Renovations

by Al Skolnik

At its February 3 continuation meeting, the Greenbelt Homes, Inc. board of directors raised the maximum loan amounts for kitchen renovations. An individual brick homeowner can now borrow up to \$4,500 (previous limit \$2,000) and a frame homeowner up to \$3,500 (previous limit \$1,500). The maximum for bathrooms will remain \$1,000. The loans are at true annual interest rate of about 9% and can be made for up to 10 years, provided certain conditions are met.

This liberalization does not affect the policy of the corporation of limiting the total amount of its funds that it will allocate to the loan program. That limit remains the same. The raise in individual loan maximums is in response to the rising costs of kitchen renovation, which have been greatly exceeding the loan maximums.

The Audit Committee unanimously recommended that the board consider an alternative outside auditor for the coming year and perhaps adopt a policy of changing auditors at regular intervals say, three to five years. Such a policy, it is felt, would be helpful to the corporation in getting different auditing approaches and might also result in some cost savings. This suggestion, the committee said, is not meant to be a reflection on the present auditors, since such switching is considered a sound financial practice. The report was recommended to the Finance Committee.

The board approved the wording of a circular which will be distributed to members attending the board meetings. This circular will explain the operations of the board how the board conducts meetings, and will give some guidelines for members' participation in the business of the meeting.

Exit Interviews

Data regarding the results of some 100-odd interviews made with departing GHI members during June-December 1971 were given to the board. Highlights:

- 35% are moving out of the metropolitan area.
- 70% had children, almost half of whom were under 5 years of age. 24% were widowed, divorced, or single.
- 84% are moving to free-standing homes. 68 members wanted a larger home, 22 a basement, 24 a bigger yard, and 16 a recreation room. 5 wanted a smaller home. (Because of multiple answers, total adds up to more than 100.)
- 41% reported annual income of \$12,000 and over; 44% reported income of \$8,000-\$12,000.
- 12 departees expressed dissatisfaction with maintenance, 17 with parking situation, 13 with standards and regulations (some of whom wanted the regulations enforced). Remainder were satisfied with GHI services or did not answer.

Tidbits

Janet James was appointed chairman of the parking committee. . . . Martha Hutzler informed the board that she was not satisfied with the reply furnished her on the comparative heating costs of GDC and frame homes. . . . A 9 Ridge member praised the corporation for its diligence in taking care of water damage that had occurred as the result of a stopped-up downspout.



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